

Magliocchetti's firm "reflect a culture of pay-to-play in Washington." and ABC News indicated that "the firm's operations—millions out to lawmakers, hundreds of millions back in earmarks for clients—have made it, for many observers, the poster child for tacit "pay-to-play" politics . . ." (Chicago Tribune, March 2, 2009; ABC News The Blotter, March 4, 2009)

Whereas Roll Call has reported that "a handful of lawmakers had already begun to refund donations tied to" the firm "at the center of a federal probe . . ." (Roll Call, February 23, 2009)

Whereas, the persistent media attention focused on questions about the nature and timing of campaign contributions related to Mr. Magliocchetti, as well as reports of the Justice Department conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions, raise concern about the integrity of Congressional proceedings and the dignity of the institution.

Whereas, the fact that cases are being investigated by the Justice Department does not preclude the Committee on Standards from taking investigative steps: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That

(a) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the founder of the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR DETROIT IS GOOD FOR WALL STREET

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week, we saw the latest outrage from Wall Street when it was exposed that AIG paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses, much of which went to workers in the division that helped actually cause the economic meltdown, and all with taxpayers' money. The excuse we are given is that those are contractual obligations and they must be paid, and we are supposed to just accept that.

Let us contrast that with how American auto workers are treated when General Motors or Chrysler need bridge loans from the government. They are told that they make too much money and that their contracts are killing the companies, and that they must take less or else the Federal Government will let the companies die.

So let's get this straight; AIG employees, who helped implode the economy, are given bonuses with taxpayers' money because it's in their contract, while UAW workers whose companies were badly hurt by the economic meltdown—partially caused by AIG—are told that their contracts must be disregarded or renegotiated. That is a vivid example of the double standard where people who work on Wall Street get their contracts upheld, but people who work on the line, it doesn't matter, and let them eat cake. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT OF 2009

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, like everybody else in this Chamber, I am outraged about AIG. They got \$170 billion in taxpayer funds to bail them out of a situation which was largely of their own creation. And they then made it worse by giving \$165 million in bonuses to people who had participated in the outrage about which all Americans are so infuriated.

The Federal Government is trying to save this corporation because it's too big to fail, but we don't have to save a bunch of money-grubbing rascals who had a part in the collapse of our economy, which they helped to bring about.

I am introducing a bill today which is going to address the problem. It is entitled, the "Responsible Corporate Executive Compensation Act of 2009." It will impose a 95 percent tax on bonuses paid to employees of TARP recipients.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help make certain that hardworking Americans are not the only ones who have to sacrifice during this time of severe economic stress and uncertainty.

WE OWE OUR VETERANS EVERYTHING

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, last week the administration announced plans for veterans to rely on private insurance company payments for the treatment of their war wounds. The American Legion's Commander Rehbein and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Executive Director Reickhoff

have already expressed very strong concerns.

The government broke these soldiers in battles across World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We, the citizens of America, owe veterans care through our government. Veterans should not depend on private insurance companies who bear no moral bond to soldiers or their pain.

One of President Washington's first missions was to care for veterans. President Lincoln promised "to care for him who bore the brunt of battle, his widow and his orphan."

President Obama eloquently portrays Lincoln as his hero, and it is clear what Lincoln would advise today.

Care for our veterans, Mr. President. Private companies owe them very little. We, the American people and our Federal Government, owe them everything.

□ 1215

DISCRIMINATION IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, discrimination is alive and well all across America. You may not have heard about it on the radio or seen it on television, but it's still alive and well. You won't see it on television because discrimination today is beneath the skin, beneath the skin of our entire society, as insurance companies, omnipotent as they are, continue to discriminate based on the preexisting condition of a citizen.

These insurance companies no longer discriminate on the basis of skin color. Rather, they discriminate against women because of the calcium, or the lack of it, in their bones. They discriminate against people who may have coronary artery disease or any of a number of medical conditions.

The lessons of both my profession and my faith have made it clear: We are all really the same beneath our skin. We're all made of the same clay. And 40 years after the civil rights movement has established that all citizens of any color shall be able to drink from the same water fountain, sit on the same bus, and attend the same medical clinic, our Nation still remains divided, not by skin color but by skin chemistry.

Mr. Speaker, it's time we bring an end to discrimination in health care.

THE FLOGGING OF GRANDMA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was International Women's Day to proclaim human rights for all women.

Obviously, Saudi Arabia didn't get the memo. In the name of religion, the